वैश्य) : (क) से (घ) इस्पात क्षेत्र में बहुत से देशों ने भारत के साथ व्यापार करने में रूचि दिखाई है । भारतीय इस्पात की बिक्री अधिकतर दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया सुदूर पूर्व, खाड़ी, यूरोप में और बंगलादेश, श्रीलंका, नेपाल जैसे पडौसी देशों में तथा अमरीका, जापान, आस्ट्रेलिया आदि जैसे बहुत से समृद्ध बाजारों में की जाती है । इन देशों में ट्रेडिंग हाउसों और प्रयोगता के साथ प्रत्येक इस्पात उत्पादक और निर्यातक की स्वयं की व्यवस्था होती है । ये व्यवस्थाएं या तो समझौता ज्ञापन के दीर्घावधिक करारों के रूप में अथवा लेन-देन के स्थल करारों के आभार पर होती है । स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड टाटा आयरन एण्ड स्टील कंपनी लिमिटेड और राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड जैसे मुख्य उत्पादकों द्वारा 1996-97 के प्रथम नौ माह (अप्रैल-दिसम्बर) के दौरान परिसजित इस्पात का किया गया अनुमानित निर्यात 7.47 लाख टन था जो पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में लगभग 36.6 की वृद्धि दर्शाता है ।

Functioning of SAIL

1613. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, whether Government feels that there is need for improvement in the working of SAIL; and

(c) the steps to be taken to make SAIL more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel periodically reviews the performance of SAIL through Progress Review Meetings and the areas that need improvement are communicated to SAIL.

(c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to better its performance, which include increasing capacity utilisation, improving productivity, introducing energy conservation measures, improving quality of products, reducing consumption of coke, energy, stores, spares etc., reducing cost of production, and as per market requirements adjusting production, orienting product-mix, making value added items etc.

Sales and Profits of Steel Sector

1614. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sales and profits of steel sector have been sliding in.spite of staff pruning and cost cutting;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the plans envisaged to improve the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Among the main steel producers, 'sales' and 'profits before tax' of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited (TISCO) have been steadily increasing for the last three years. As regards Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), the 'sales' have been increasing and the losses incurred by it have been decreasing for the last three years.

(b) and (c): Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Irregularities in the Functioning of NGOs in Orissa

1615. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the grants given by Government to Non-Governmental Organisations during the current financial year;

(b) whether Government have detected gross irregularities in the functioning of the NGOs, especially in Orissa; and

(c) the action taken against such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A statement is enclosed (see below).

(b) Complaints have been received in